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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I, Lydia Johnstone, translator to Siemens Shared Services / Siemens Translation Services, of Hyde House, Oldbury, Bracknell, England declare:

1. That I am a citizen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
2. That I am well acquainted with the German and English languages.
3. That the attached is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true translation into the English language of the accompanying copy of the Amendments to the specification filed with the application for a patent in Germany on 4 September 2003 under the number PCT/DE2003/002939 and the official certificate is attached hereto.
4. That I believe that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent application in the United States of America or any patent issuing thereon.

Lydia Johnstone

For and on behalf of Siemens Shared Services/
Siemens Translation Services

The 25 day of February, 2005

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Claims

1. Method for detecting an object or a person (16) in the interior (10) of a motor vehicle in which an image recording unit (2) provided for the purpose and/or an analytical unit (3) for the image data transmitted from the image recording unit (2) is operated in a first operating mode whilst an acceleration threshold value (S) is not determined to be exceeded by the analytical unit (3) and in a second operating mode whilst the acceleration threshold value (S) is determined to be exceeded by the analytical unit (3).
2. Method according to Claim 1, in which the value of the motor vehicle acceleration is polled by the analytical unit (3) with a cycle time of 2 ms, or preferably 1 ms.
3. Method according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the acceleration threshold value is around 2m/s^2 .
4. Method according to Claims 1 to 3, in which the second operating mode takes over on the basis of the positional data of the last measurement in the first operating mode.
5. Method according to one of the preceding Claims, in which the next position of an object is estimated in the second operating mode on the basis of the measured acceleration values with the aid of a comparison model.
6. Method according to one of the preceding Claims, in which when the threshold value is no longer exceeded the second operating mode currently running is interrupted and the first operating mode is restarted and vice versa.

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Device (1), in particular for carrying out the method according to one of the preceding Claims, for detecting an object or a person (16) in the interior (10) of a motor vehicle,

- 5 - having an image recording unit (2) for that purpose;
 - having an analytical unit (3) for the data transmitted from the image recording unit (2),
 - having a first operating mode of the device (1) whilst an acceleration threshold value (S) is not determined to be
10 exceeded by the analytical unit (3), and
 - having a second operating mode of the device (1) whilst an acceleration threshold value (S) is determined to be exceeded by the analytical unit (3).

15 8. Device according to Claim 7, characterized in that the analytical unit (3) is designed so that the second operating mode is activated as soon as the value of the motor vehicle acceleration exceeds the threshold (S).

20 9. Device according to Claim 7 or 8, characterized in that the analytical unit (3) is designed so that the first operating mode is activated as soon as the value of the motor vehicle acceleration drops below the threshold (S).

25 10. Device according to Claims 7 to 9, characterized in that the analytical unit (3) is designed so that it references values for the motor vehicle acceleration from an external airbag control unit (5).

30 11. Device according to Claims 7 to 9, characterized in that the device itself includes an acceleration sensor (4).

12. Device according to Claim 11, characterized in that the acceleration sensor (4) is an integral part of the

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analytical unit (3) or of the image recording unit (2).

13. Device according to Claims 11 or 12, characterized in that
the acceleration sensor (4) is a sensitive sensor for
5 relatively low accelerations.

14. Device according to one of the Claims 7 to 13,
characterized in that the second operating mode provides
the image recording unit (2) with a sampling range which is
10 more restricted than that of the first operating mode.

15. Device according to one of the Claims 7 to 14,
characterized in that the second operating mode provides
the analytical unit (3) with an analysis cycle which is
15 shorter than that of the first operating mode.

16. Device according to one of the Claims 7 to 15,
characterized in that the image recording unit (2) is a
camera, and preferably a stereoscopic 3D camera.